

**Sacred Heart Parish Pastoral Council**  
**Annual General Meeting**  
**Sunday 20th November 2011**

**Present:**       **PPC members:** Canon Bernard Massey (Parish Priest), David Culley (Chair), Jane Dyer (Minutes), David Gabriel, Jake Preisner, Terry Quadling, Mary Templer, Frank Tothill.

**Parishioners:** 55 as per attached list.

**1       Opening Prayer**

Canon Bernard opened the meeting with prayers and a Hail Mary.

**2       Apologies for Absence**

Petronella Mason, Kate Painter, Pat Parry, Gill Preisner, Grainne Stables, Alan White.

**3       Minutes of last AGM**

The Minutes of the last AGM held on 21<sup>st</sup> November 2010 were presented and agreed – it was noted that those named as ‘Present’ were PPC members.

**4       Matters arising**

There were no matters arising.

**5       Parish Priest’s Report (Canon Bernard Massey)**

Canon Bernard reported that work had been completed on the Parish Rooms, Office, Sacristy, Disabled Toilet and Presbytery, and thanked Philip and his firm for their work. Parishioners were invited to view the ‘before’ and ‘after’ photos which were on display.

- The One Parish One Mass for Pentecost followed by a BBQ had been a great success
- It is hoped to launch the Website by the end of the year

Facts and Figures for 2010/2011:

- Baptisms:       2010 – 15                               2011 – 13
- Funerals:       2010 – 12                               2011 – 8
- Weddings:       2010 – 2                               2011 – 1 (but 4 couples had been prepared for Marriage)
- 1<sup>st</sup> Holy Communion:   2010 – 15
- Both 1<sup>st</sup> Holy Communion and Confirmation will be celebrated next year – the course ‘I Belong’ will be used for 1<sup>st</sup> Holy Communion; to date about 8/9 young people had indicated their wish to be confirmed
- Over 30 people have volunteered for various Ministries
- 27 people receive Holy Communion at home on a regular basis
- Mass attendance was up from 319 to 373 over the past month compared with the same time in 2010

i)       Sick List

The list of sick parishioners currently appears in the Newsletter; as this list changes infrequently, it is proposed to post this list on the Notice Board in the Narthex thus allowing more space in the Newsletter.

ii)       Book of Remembrance

The 1991 Diary currently in use does not afford respect for the deceased as the days/dates do not match. A new Book of Remembrance is proposed for use from the beginning of January – each day of the year will show the names of those deceased who were buried from the Sacred Heart, and the weekly Newsletter and Bidding Prayers will include the relevant names of those who have died within the last 25 years. However, if parishioners wish to submit names of any others who have died for inclusion in the current weekly Newsletter and Bidding Prayers, they can let Canon Bernard know.

## 6 Pastoral Council Report (David Culley)

Based on the feedback at last year's AGM, three objectives were set for 2011:

- Continuation of support for adult parishioners on their faith journey
- Increased awareness of social justice issues, both locally and internationally
- Encourage the faith development of post First Communion children

Separate working parties were formed to address each objective and a member of each working party will be giving a report on progress.

Two other projects were worked on, namely: our Pentecost celebration and fostering our ongoing relationship with St Antony's.

Our Pentecost celebration had its roots in our annual Family Fun Day and it was decided to expand this event to include the whole parish. Canon Bernard suggested combining the Sunday Masses and despite the plans for an open air Mass and BBQ having to be revised due to inclement weather, the event proved a great success with some 300 people joining in the celebration. Thanks were extended to the Catenian Circles who sponsored the event. It is hoped to make this an annual event and the Newman Hall has been booked for 2012.

Our ongoing relationship with St Antony's has included further meetings between members of our respective PPCs and work on joint projects covering the New Translation of the Liturgy and Social Justice issues.

David Culley thanked the members of the PPC for their hard work over the past year and also Canon Bernard for his guidance; he advised that this AGM would mark the end of his time on the PPC.

### *i) Spiritual Development of the Parish (Jane Dyer)*

This had been a very full and varied year in the Spiritual Development of the Parish.

The Advent 2010 programme had included:

- Reflections on the Nativity Story – an inspirational talk by Canon Bernard entitled 'Mary and Joseph – a marriage made in heaven'
- A Service of Lessons and Carols followed by mulled wine and mince pies
- A Christingle Service where the children of the parish prepared for Christmas – this was followed by a party

Our Lenten Observance 2011 was marked by a six part CaFE course entitled 'Believe: Reflections on the Creed' with DVD presentations by David Payne, the Director of CaFE.

The impending introduction of the New Translation of the Liturgy afforded the opportunity to join with St Antony's, Henbury, for a series of explanatory talks reflecting upon the changes led by Mike Kavanagh of St Antony's.

The current spiritual development is a series of 8 talks given by John Huntriss entitled 'The Diary of God' which explores the rich treasures contained within the Bible.

### *ii) Increased Awareness of Social Justice Issues (Frank Tohill)*

The parish has continued to support CAFOD very generously – for example, the Harvest Fast Day collection was up nearly £300 this year. The total parish contribution for 2011 to date is over £7000 – this is somewhat down on last year, but there were two major appeals in 2010 compared with one this year.

The CAFOD group have continued to organise social, fund raising and awareness raising events, and intend to continue with a similar programme next year with particular emphasis on Connect2 Cambodia.

Four talks on issues of Social Justice were held jointly with St Antony's in May/June on the topics:

- Volunteer charity work in India
- Assistance for Christians in the Holy Land
- LIFE charity
- Cambodia

These well presented talks were attended by around 12/20 people from both parishes. It was hoped to form a new group to pursue one of these issues in a similar way to the CAFOD group, but there was not a great deal of enthusiasm for this.

iii) Faith Development of post First Communion Children (Jake Preisner)

- The 9.30 am Sunday Mass is the service usually attended by the children
- Young families and children are now acting as Welcomers at this service
- Children are to be encouraged to play a greater role at the service such as Welcomers or Altar Servers
- A post First Holy Communion Liturgy group is now being run by Emma Perry for the post First Communion children up to the end of primary school age

**7 Ecumenical Report (Frank Tohill)**

The absence of the usual quarterly ecumenical joint services this year has been because Churches Together in the Westbury Area has been reconsidering its objectives and functions. There was a widespread view that CTWA was not developing, or contributing to the mission activities of the churches, and that there was declining enthusiasm for the joint services.

Following a discussion in January, it has been proposed that there be one Forum meeting each year, open to all, with a speaker to ensure inspirational and stimulating input. In between these meetings, the Churches will work together in two groups based on Henleaze and Westbury-on-Trym and will consider ecumenical projects such as youth work, care for the elderly, new ways of worship and a prayer network. The Henleaze group, including the Sacred Heart, will be running an ecumenical Lent course in 2012.

It is hoped that CTWA will emerge from this renewal with a renewed sense of mission and purpose.

**8 Treasurer's Report (Gerry Calderbank)**

Gerry Calderbank presented the Income and Expenditure figures for the year to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2010 showing a surplus of £81,914 which included Legacy Income totalling £145,131, Building Works costing £51,027, and the purchase of Contents (furniture and electrical equipment) costing £11,472. Most of the expenditure for the building work will be in the 2011 Accounts.

Offertory donations totalled £46,087 of which 63% (£29,019) was Gift Aided. Including £7,681 Tax Refunded, 68.3% of Offertory Income came from Gift Aided donations. Tax refunds are now at the rate of 25% of amount donated; up to April 2011 it was 28.2%.

Our investments are in a General Deposit Fund (GDF) and a Unit Fund (stock market linked) controlled by the Diocese. Following the building works there was a small amount remaining in the GDF. The six monthly report on the Unit Fund received in June 2011 showed a valuation of £157K.

We received £300 profit from the Repository sales; and Special Collections donations were £12,974 of which £6,763 was for CAFOD.

In recent years most of the Poor Plate monies has been sent to Fr Danny O'Sullivan for his parish in Peru – our Parish Project. We have also helped our SVP Society and other organisations working for the poor. The money is rarely given to individuals but this is an option available to Canon Bernard should cases arise. It had been felt by some that the ways in which the Poor Plate monies had been distributed was not clear so we have tried to show that the Parish Project is a main beneficiary. The very large amount donated at Second Collections has meant fewer Poor Plate collections.

**9 Newman Hall Accounts (Pat Murrell)**

Pat Murrell presented the Income and Expenditure Accounts for the Newman Hall for the year to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2010 showing an overall deficit of £1,404.16. There had been no donations and Income was almost identical to that of the previous year. Electricity and Refuse Disposal charges were both down on the previous year due to new contracts. New equipment such as blinds and a fridge had been purchased. Maintenance work had been carried out as follows: redecoration, work on the roof, electrical work, fire alarm and outside lights. It was noted that the loan had been repaid.

The past three years have seen a heavy programme of essential works, improvements and maintenance and this cost is reflected in the figures shown. However, with a high level of bookings expected for the coming year, the financial position of the Hall should be quite healthy again by the end of 2011.

Pat Murrell expressed his wish to relinquish his post as Treasurer of the Newman Hall and asked that anyone interested in taking over should contact him or Canon Bernard.

#### **10 Election of Parish Pastoral Councillors**

David Culley advised that Grainne Stables, Petronella Mason and Mary Templer would be retiring from the Council and asked for nominations for these vacant places. The following were duly proposed and seconded: Roger Mason, Christine Menzies and Gill Preisner; and these were duly welcomed to the PPC.

The other Council members expressed their willingness to continue to serve and were duly re-elected.

#### **11 Priorities for 2012**

The following suggestions were put forward:

- *Support for the Social Club of the Parish* – encourage parishioners to use the Club
- *Support for CAFOD, the local Food Bank and the SVP*
- *Continue with Spiritual Development of the Parish* – offer another CaFE course
- *Training course for Readers* – hopefully in the New Year
- *Parish Pilgrimage* – possible venues to be considered
- *Continuing relationship with St Antony's*
- *Facilities for young people such as Youth Club* – hopefully form a Post Confirmation group after the end of the Confirmation programme in 2012

David Culley said that these suggestions would be discussed at the next PPC meeting.

#### **12 Any Other Business**

Canon Bernard thanked David Culley for his time as Chair and for his skill and enthusiasm; he also thanked Gerry Calderbank for his work on the Parish Accounts and Pat Murrell for his work on the Newman Hall Accounts.

He advised that the Parish Website would be up and running soon and that the Newsletters and Minutes had already been put on.

Canon Bernard spoke of proposed alterations and refurbishments to the Church:

- Guttering on the outside of the Church needs attention
- Changing the inside wooden doors to the Church to glass doors thus making the Narthex area more welcoming
- Attention to the lighting in the Sanctuary area as this is not as bright as the rest of the Church
- Make the Sanctuary steps more user-friendly
- More liturgical space is needed for the choir/folk group

Canon Bernard thanked the Parish for their encouragement and said he was looking forward to the future years.

#### **13 Closing Prayer**

Canon Bernard closed the meeting with prayers and the Our Father.